



TREASURY INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

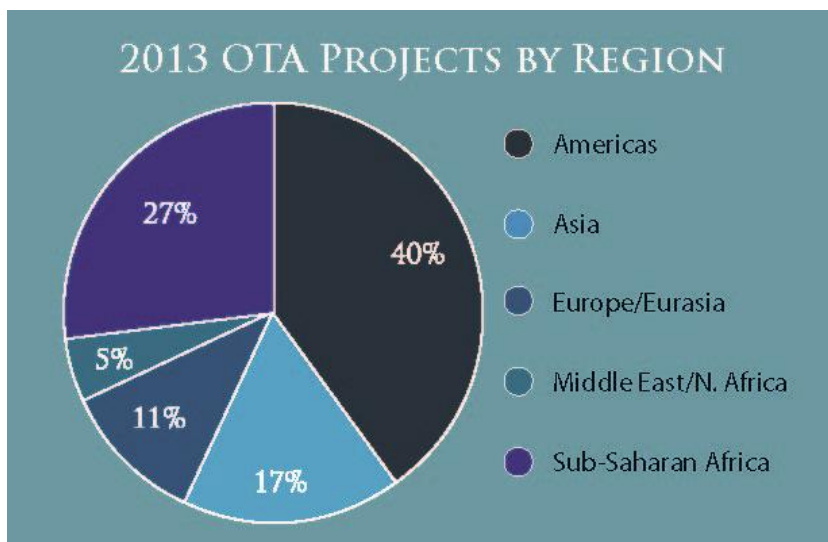
For more than 20 years, the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) has helped developing and transitional countries build their capacity to manage government finances more effectively, deliver essential public services, and grow their economies. Such assistance is also in the U.S. national interest. Building strong economic governance regimes supports financial sector stability and fosters robust trade and investment relations. Helping developing countries generate more domestic revenue and manage their resources effectively reduces their dependence on foreign aid. OTA assistance helps our counterparts build valuable international partnerships, including in the global effort to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.



OTA provides financial sector assistance in five core disciplines: revenue administration and policy, budget and financial accountability, government debt issuance and management, banking and financial services, and economic crimes. OTA engages with governments that are committed to reform and to using U.S. assistance effectively. OTA's cadre of highly experienced technical advisors work side-by-side with counterparts in central banks and finance ministries, typically for a period of several years.

OTA Activities and Accomplishments in 2013

As of the end of 2013, OTA had 100 projects in approximately 50 countries. Forty percent of OTA's total projects in 2013 were in the Americas, 27 percent in Sub-Saharan Africa, 17 percent in Asia, 11 percent in Europe and Eurasia, and 5 percent in the Middle East and North Africa (*see pie chart on right*).





Leveraging Resources to Achieve Results

In 2013, OTA received total funding of \$39.3 million, including funds directly appropriated to the program by Congress and transfers from other U.S. agencies. OTA effectively leveraged these modest budget resources to help partner countries to achieve significant development outcomes such as the following:

- **Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda** made significant progress in implementing an integrated payment system that will facilitate cross-border movement of goods, services, and capital. OTA is working with each of these East African Community member countries to implement modern payment systems and core banking systems, which are prerequisites to an integrated cross-border system.
- **Indonesia** was awarded its second investment-grade rating. OTA worked with the Finance Ministry's Debt Management Organization to formulate and implement debt management policies and strategies that reinforced a continued improvement in Indonesia's sovereign credit rating.
- **El Salvador and Costa Rica** successfully implemented infrastructure projects to modernize airports in their respective countries. OTA helped the governments evaluate and determine the best financing and execution models to proceed with the projects.
- **Colombia** created the first Inspector General for revenue issues in Latin America, a body tasked with investigating corruption and rooting out systemic weaknesses in the tax and social security administrations. The Inspector General, which was developed based on recommendations and assistance from OTA, has significantly reduced the time required to conduct and close investigations. As of January 2014, the Inspector General had closed 263 cases, with 20 referrals for prosecution, and 16 employee dismissals.
- **Costa Rica** seized \$21.5 million in a complex international money laundering case. OTA provided guidance to Costa Rican regulatory authorities and training for investigators and prosecutors, and brokered cooperation between Costa Rican and U.S. law enforcement authorities that was critical to the seizure.
- **Honduras** lowered costs at a government-owned hospital by 54 percent through improved medical supply procurement practices. OTA worked closely with the national purchasing office, the health ministry, and hospitals to create a request for bids for a range of medical supplies that allowed hospitals to purchase supplies on an as-needed basis at low, fixed prices.

OTA also often serves as a "first responder" in emerging economic and national security crises, such as recently in Ukraine, and demand for OTA assistance from developing and transitional countries is strong and continues to increase.

For more information about the Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance, click [here](#).